FREE engine wall chart - part 2 inside!

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Marvel

21st Apr. 1995
No 196 80p

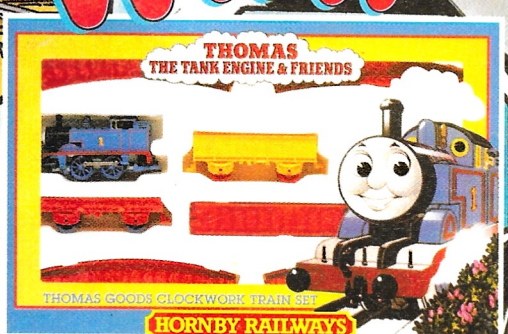
THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

* New stories!
* Easter game!
* Wall mural!

WIN!



train sets inside!

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ALL ABOARD

Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! There's even more happening on the Island of Sodor in this issue of Thomas the Tank & Friends and there are some great stories to read, too! Gordon the Express Engine uses his speed to save Thomas in our first story, Gordon gets going! And you can find out more about Gordon, the speedy engine, in his own special feature! There's also a colourful game for you to play, where the engines race each other to the Easter parade! Clumsy Diesel has really *slipped-up* in our read-aloud story, Feeling fine! And in our final story, The show train, you can read how Annie and Clarabel, are made into the Punch and Judy Special! Peep! Peep!

Collect your FREE

wall chart *inside!*

Play the EASTER GAME on pages 8 and 9!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Jim Galton, Chairman; Michael Z. Hobson, Managing Director; Paul Neary, Editorial Director; Alan J. O'Keefe, Group Editor; David Paul Boyle, Editor; Jenny Wackett, Assistant Editor; Helen Nally, Art Director; Ciara Mulvany, Designer; Liz Stott, Junior Designer; Irfan Yunis & Mark Irvine, Production Control. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St, London, WC2R 3DX. All **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 071 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

Contents

4. Gordon gets going!
Gordon and Thomas race to safety!

8. Easter game!
Throw a dice and move your engine!

10. Letters and drawings!
See if your letter has won a prize!

12. ABC Mural!
Collect your next wall mural featuring the letter 'P'!

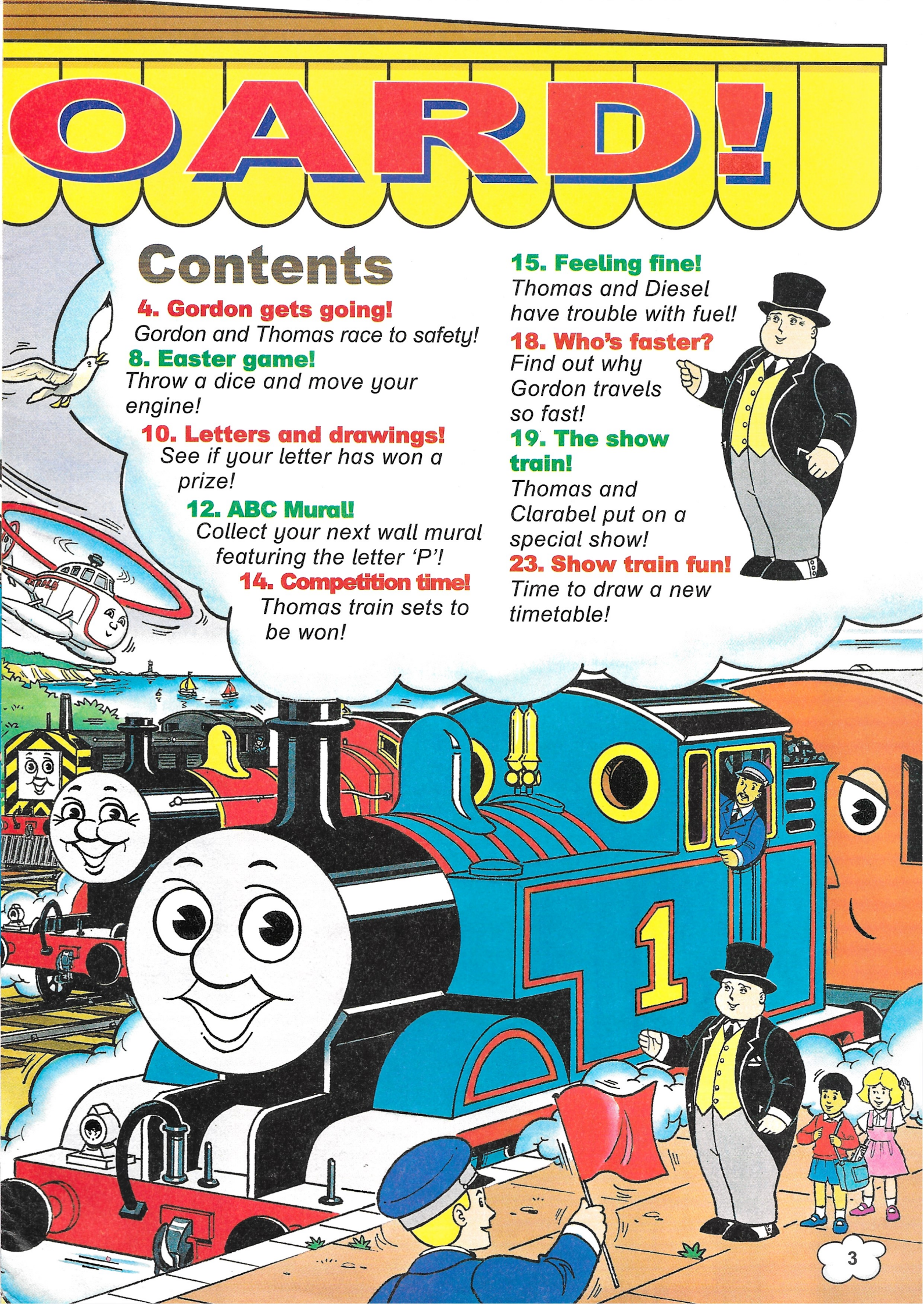
14. Competition time!
Thomas train sets to be won!

15. Feeling fine!
Thomas and Diesel have trouble with fuel!

18. Who's faster?
Find out why Gordon travels so fast!

19. The show train!
Thomas and Clarabel put on a special show!

23. Show train fun!
Time to draw a new timetable!

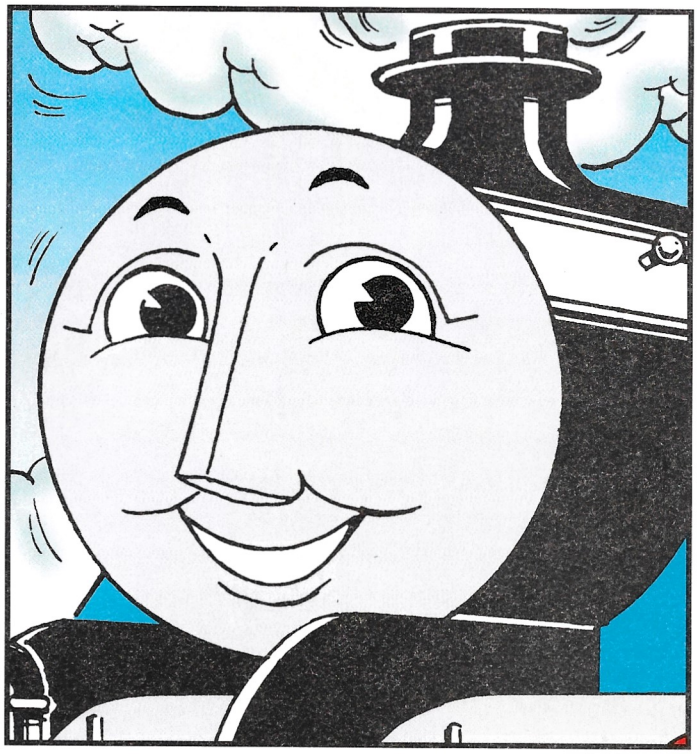


A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

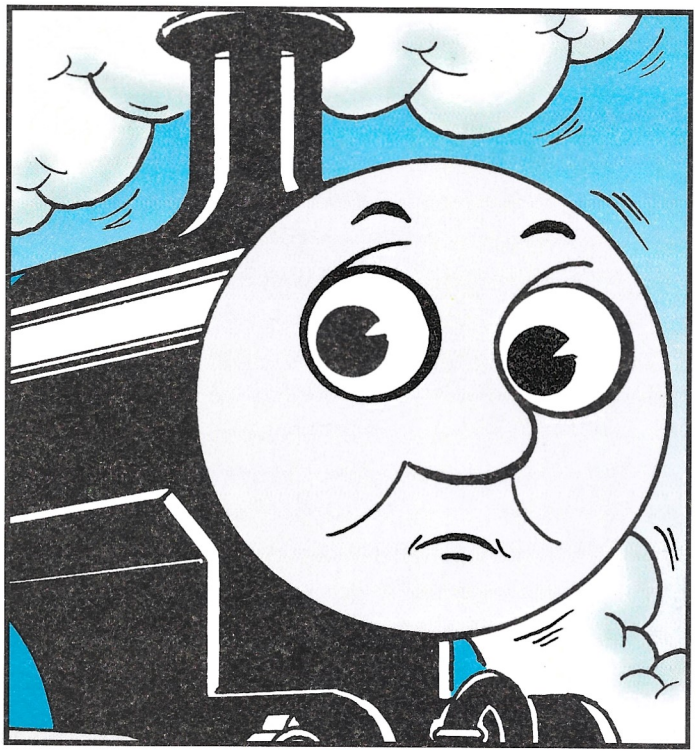
Gordon gets going!

1. One morning, Gordon stood waiting impatiently in the Main Station yard for Thomas to bring him his fine Express coaches. "Hurry up, Thomas!" he called.

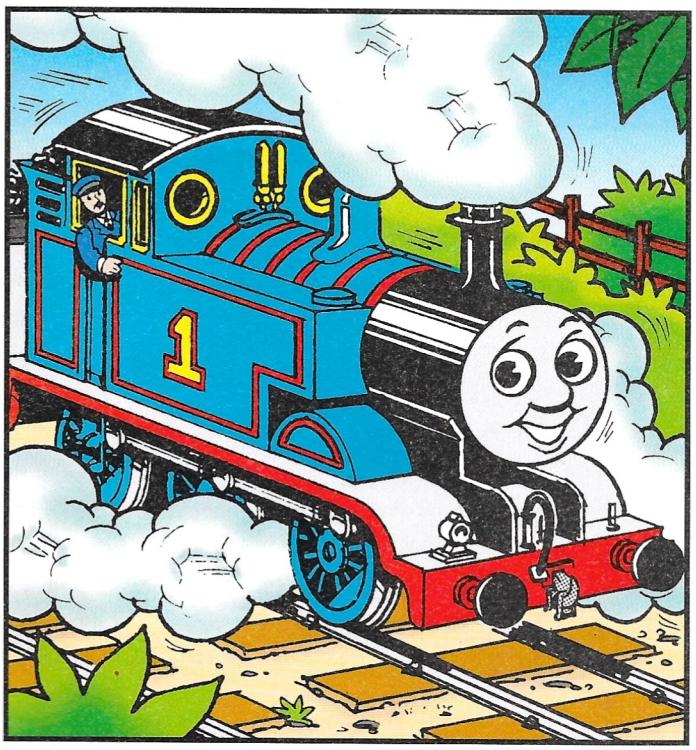
2. "You're such a slowcoach!" grumbled Gordon. "The Express must not be late!" "I'm doing my best!" puffed Thomas. "Your big coaches are heavy to pull!"



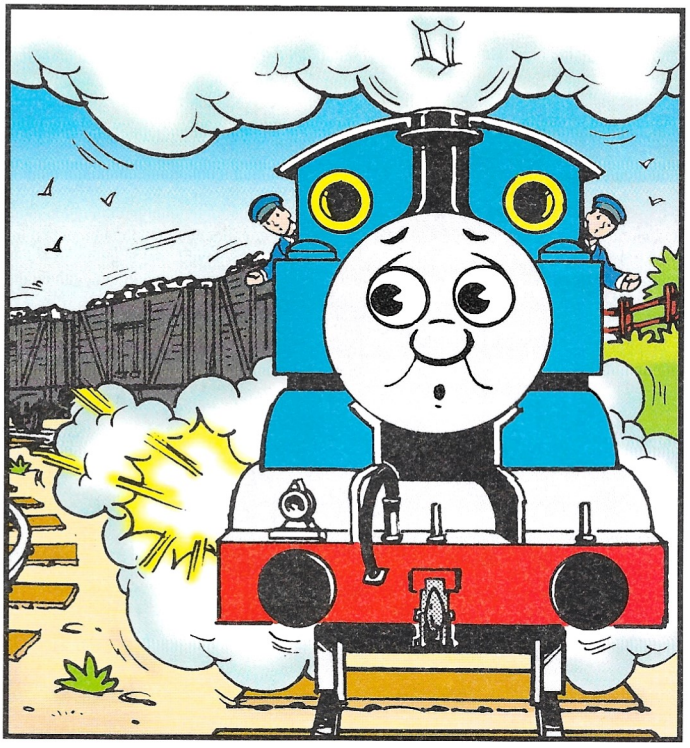
3. “Pah! Not for me!” boasted Gordon. “I’m very strong. I was forgetting you’re only a little tank engine!” Soon Gordon steamed on his way from the Main Station yard.



4. Thomas watched as the big engine pulled all the Express coaches with ease. “What a show off!” thought Thomas. “I bet Gordon thinks he’s the fastest engine!”

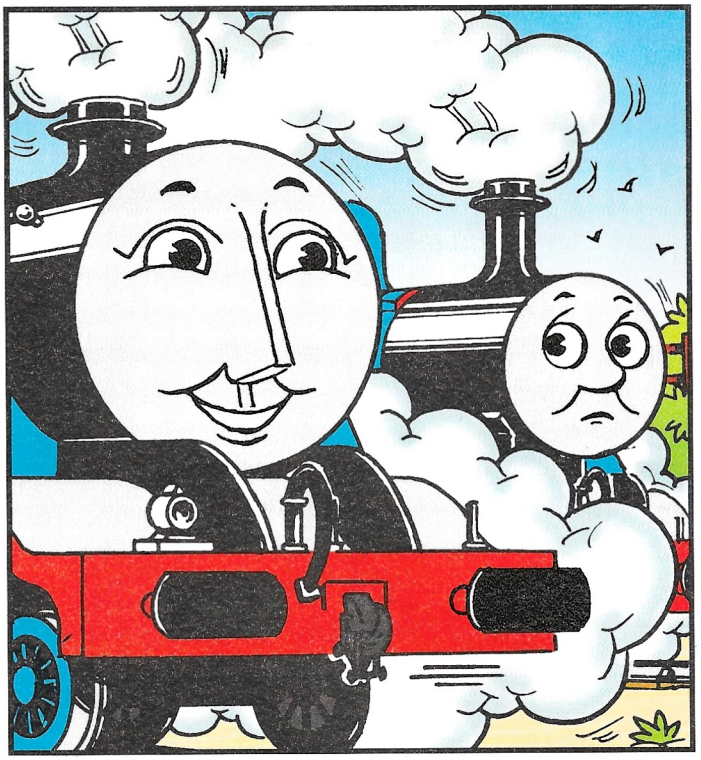


5. Later, Thomas took some trucks along his branch line. He was still feeling upset about Gordon. “He’s getting too big for his buffers!” thought Thomas.

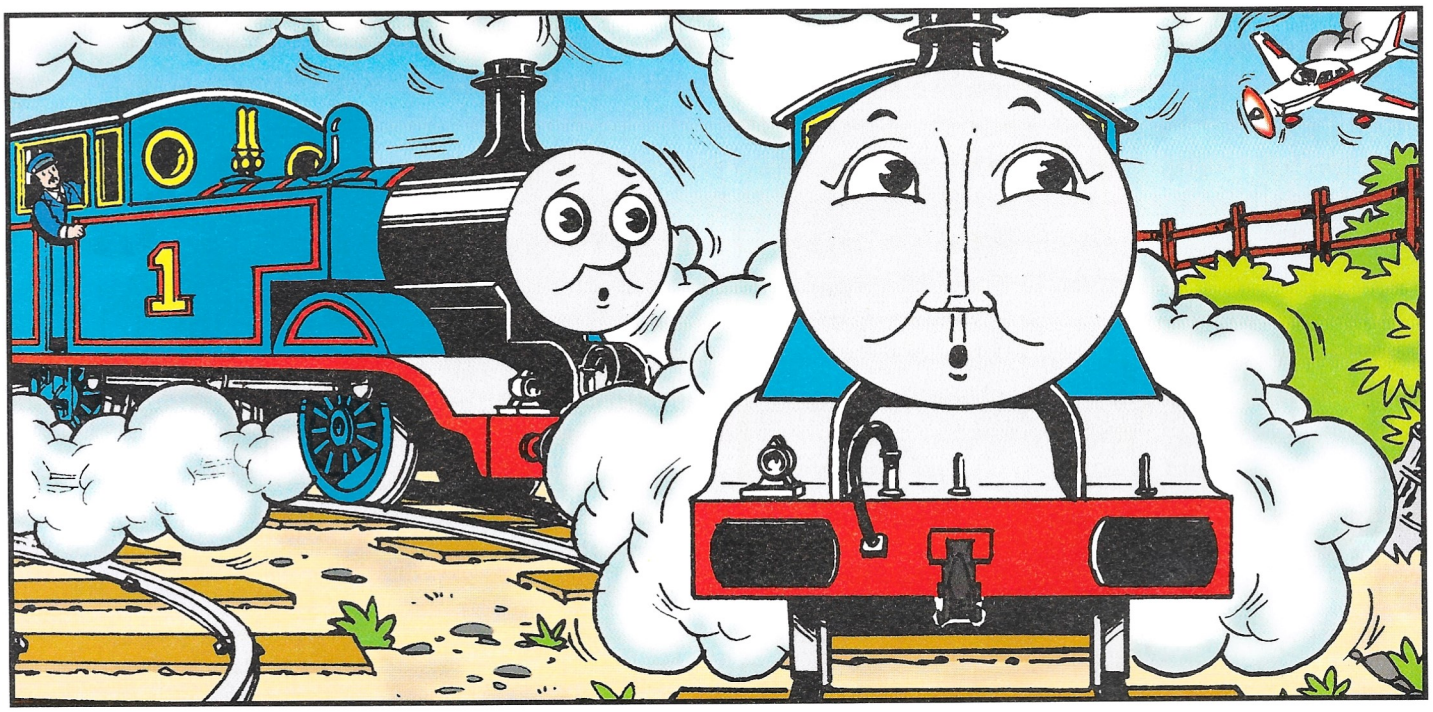


6. Next moment, there was a hissing noise from one of Thomas’s valves and soon he began to slow down. “Oh, no! I’m starting to lose steam!” gasped Thomas.

7. Before long, Thomas had no choice but to stop. Luckily, a signal box was nearby. His driver ran over to telephone the Fat Controller, who sent another engine right away.

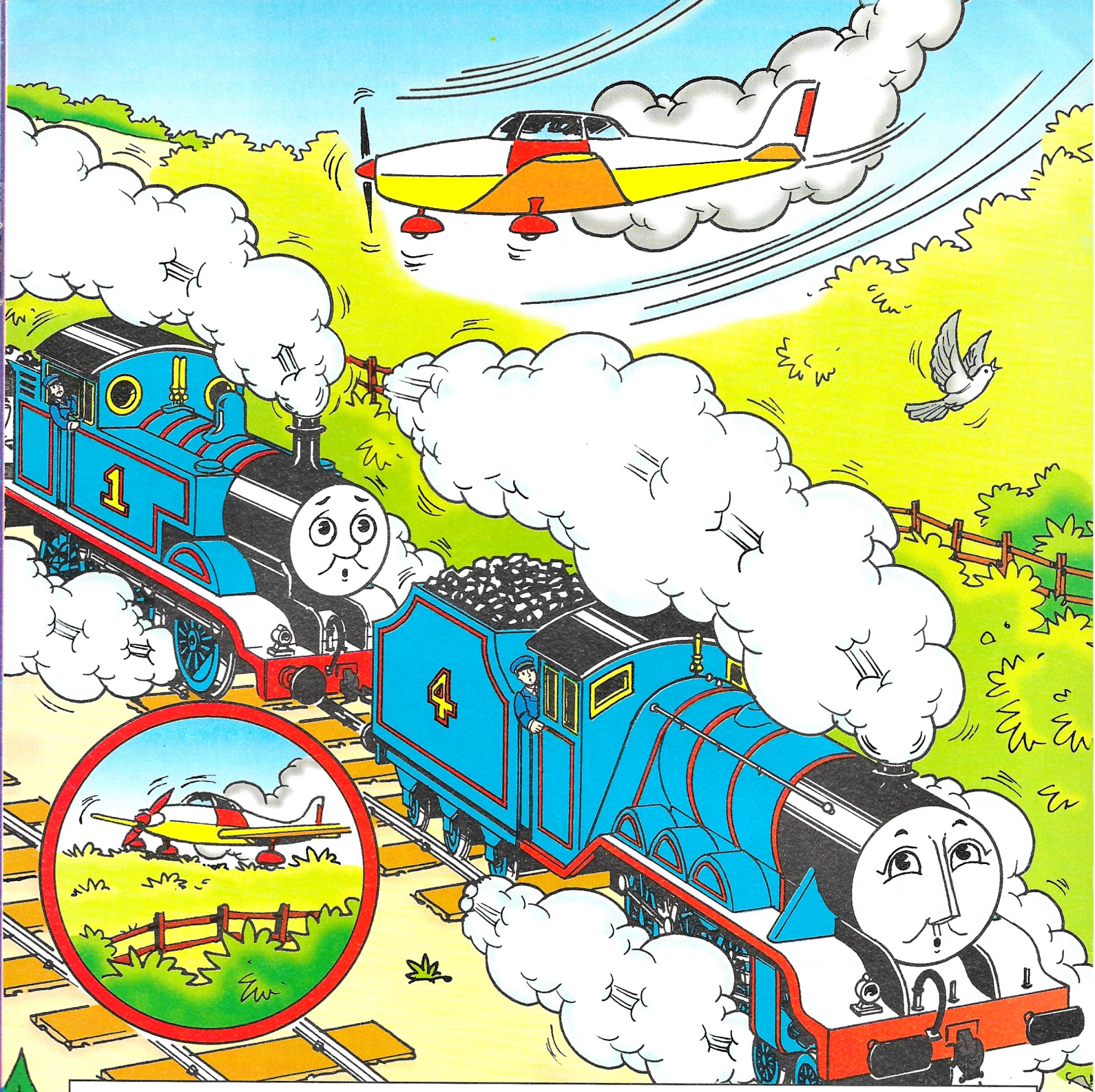


8. Who should quickly arrive to take Thomas back to the yard but Gordon. "It's lucky that I'd returned with the Express!" said Gordon. Thomas did not seem to think so!



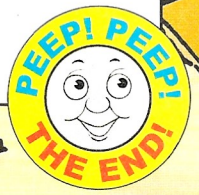
9. Gordon began to pull Thomas along. Then both engines heard a spluttering sound which got louder and louder. Suddenly, they saw an aircraft flying really close to them.

10. It was diving straight for Thomas. "Look! That plane's in trouble!" cried Thomas's worried driver. "The pilot's trying to make an emergency landing!"



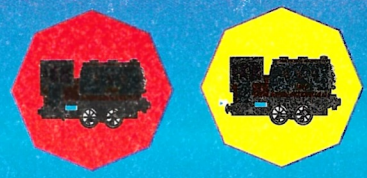
11. Beyond Thomas and Gordon was a field. "That's where the plane's heading!" pointed the driver. "But it's losing height too fast! We're right in its path!" Thomas was scared. "Hurry, Gordon!" he cried. Sparks flew from under Gordon's wheels. He pulled as hard and fast as his powerful wheels could carry him.

12. "The plane is going to hit us!" cried Thomas. But determined Gordon did not give up! In a cloud of smoke and steam, he pulled Thomas clear just in time to let the plane land safely. Now, Thomas was glad Gordon was so fast. "Thank goodness you really fly along too, Gordon!" puffed Thomas.



Easter game!

Cut-out counters!



It's Easter time on the Island of Sodor! Some of the engines are going to a special Easter parade! To play this Easter game, throw a dice and move your cut-out engine counters along the blue and yellow railway tracks. The first engine to reach the 'EASTER PARADE!' banner is the winner! Watch out for a few surprises on the way, that will either help you or hinder you! Good luck!

START

Wait at a signal! Go back 1!

Change the points! Move 1 across to the yellow line!

Pick up speed! Move on 3!

Stop for water! Go back 1!
Cows on the line! Miss a turn!
Stop for passengers! Go back 1!
Collect your easter egg. Move on 2 spaces.
Slow down! Go back 1 space
Wait at the last signal! Go back 3!
EASTER PARADE
1

YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a splendid Thomas push and pull motorised engine!

HELPFUL HAROLD!

Dear Fat Controller,
Please can you tell me more about Harold the Helicopter? My mummy says he rescues people in his job!
Love from **Jamie Wilson**, aged 3.

Your mummy is right! Harold the Helicopter does rescue people! However, his main job is to lift cargo that is too big or heavy for the other engines to carry. He also helps his engine friends when they are in trouble!

BULGY'S DREAM!

Dear Fat Controller,
I really like Bulgy the Bus! Will he ever be a railway bus again or will he stay as a hen house?
Love from **Andrew Evans**.

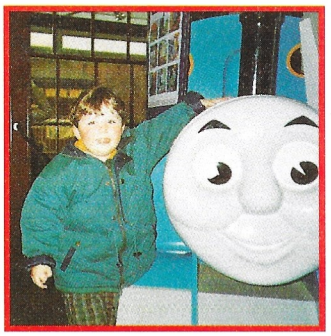
Bulgy hopes that one day, he will be back on the roads as a working bus! However, it is still not very safe for him to travel on the smaller lanes around the Island of Sodor! He is too wide to fit on the single lanes!

WORK MATES!

Dear Fat Controller,
Can you please tell me who Oliver works with?
Love from **Sam Bowman**.

Oliver works on the Arlesburgh Branch Line. With the help of his brake van, Toad, his job is to mainly help Duck with passenger and goods work. Oliver is a Really Useful Engine and we are very lucky to have him working on the Island of Sodor railway!

PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT!



Here is a picture of me and Thomas! He is my favourite engine! I have been to see Thomas and his friends three times at the Monkwearmouth Railway Museum!
Love from **Andrew Patterson**, aged 3.

BIRTHDAYS!

Happy birthday to...

Matthew Kellher, David E. Borrall, Finlay Milligan, Michael Welsh and **Taylor Aylott**

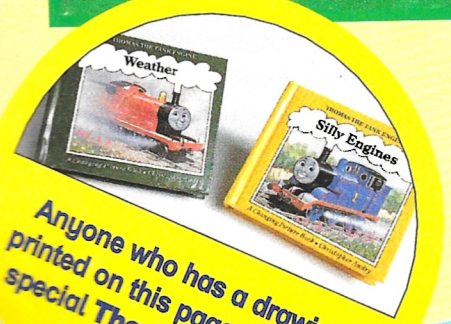
Drawing Board!

Thank you for sending your very fine drawings and pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board!

Congratulations go to Jay O'Neil! Jay was a lucky winner in our Benjamin Toys drawing competition! This fabulous painted picture has won Jay a unique set of models!

Thomas is busy with Annie and Clarabel in this colourful picture drawn by Lorna Nathan, aged 7. Thank you!

We warmly thank Edward Johnson, who has drawn a picture of James on his branch line!

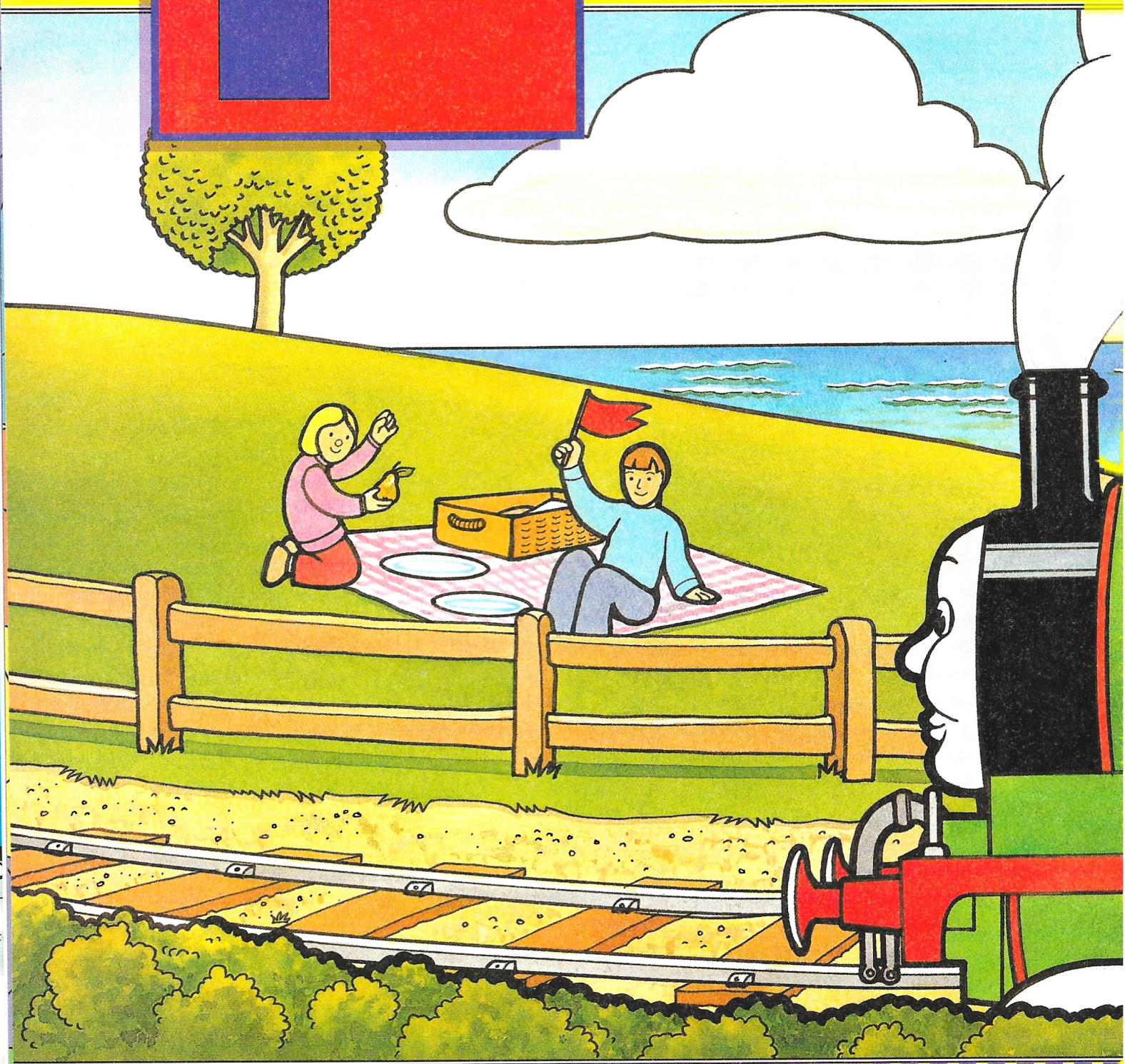


Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Changing Picture Book!

You can send your drawings to me at: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Marvel Comics., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.

CUT-OUT AND KEEP

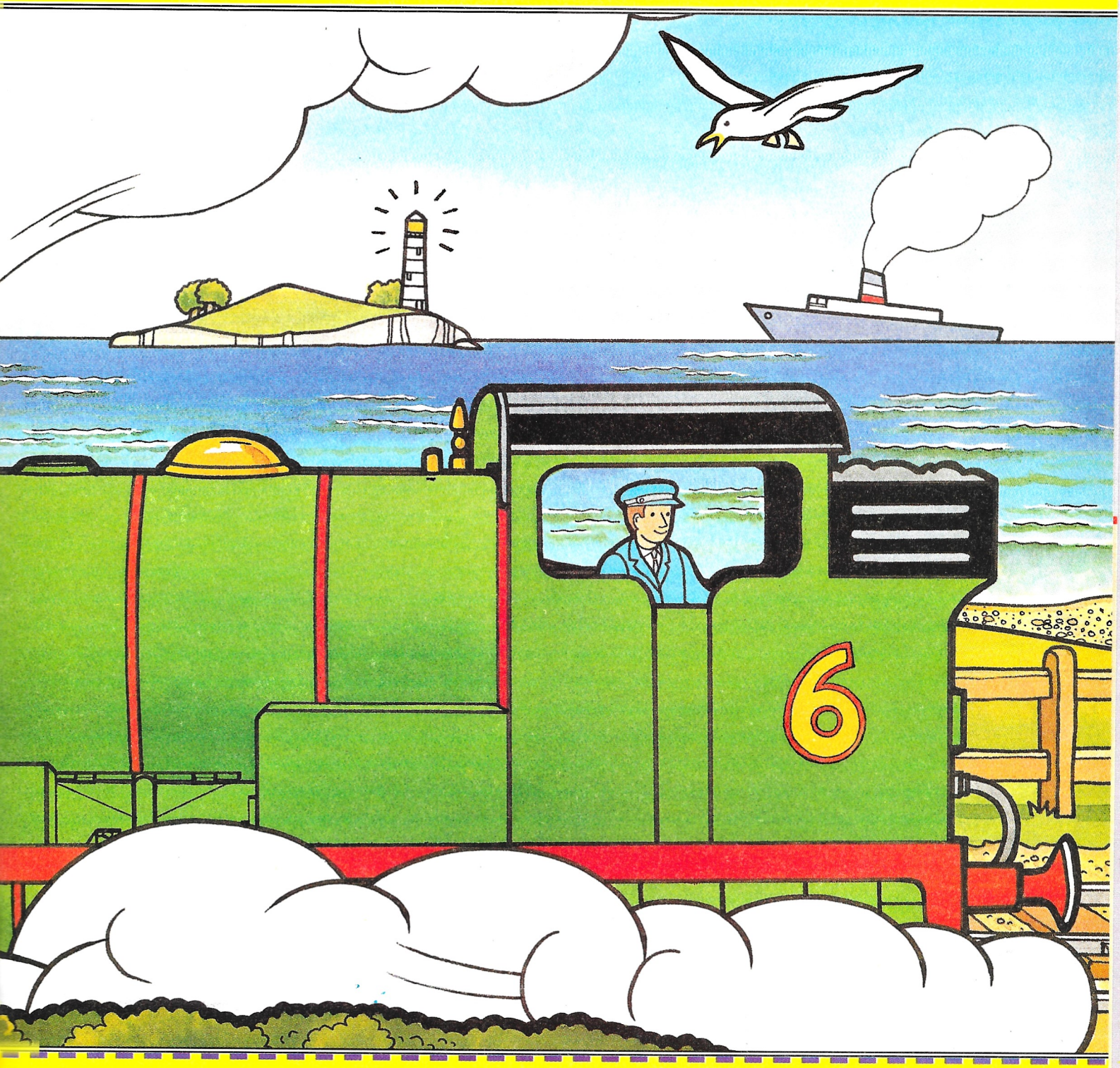
p is fo



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What is the girl holding in her hand?
How many plates can you see?

What colour is the fla
Why are the children
What can you see on
How many ships are

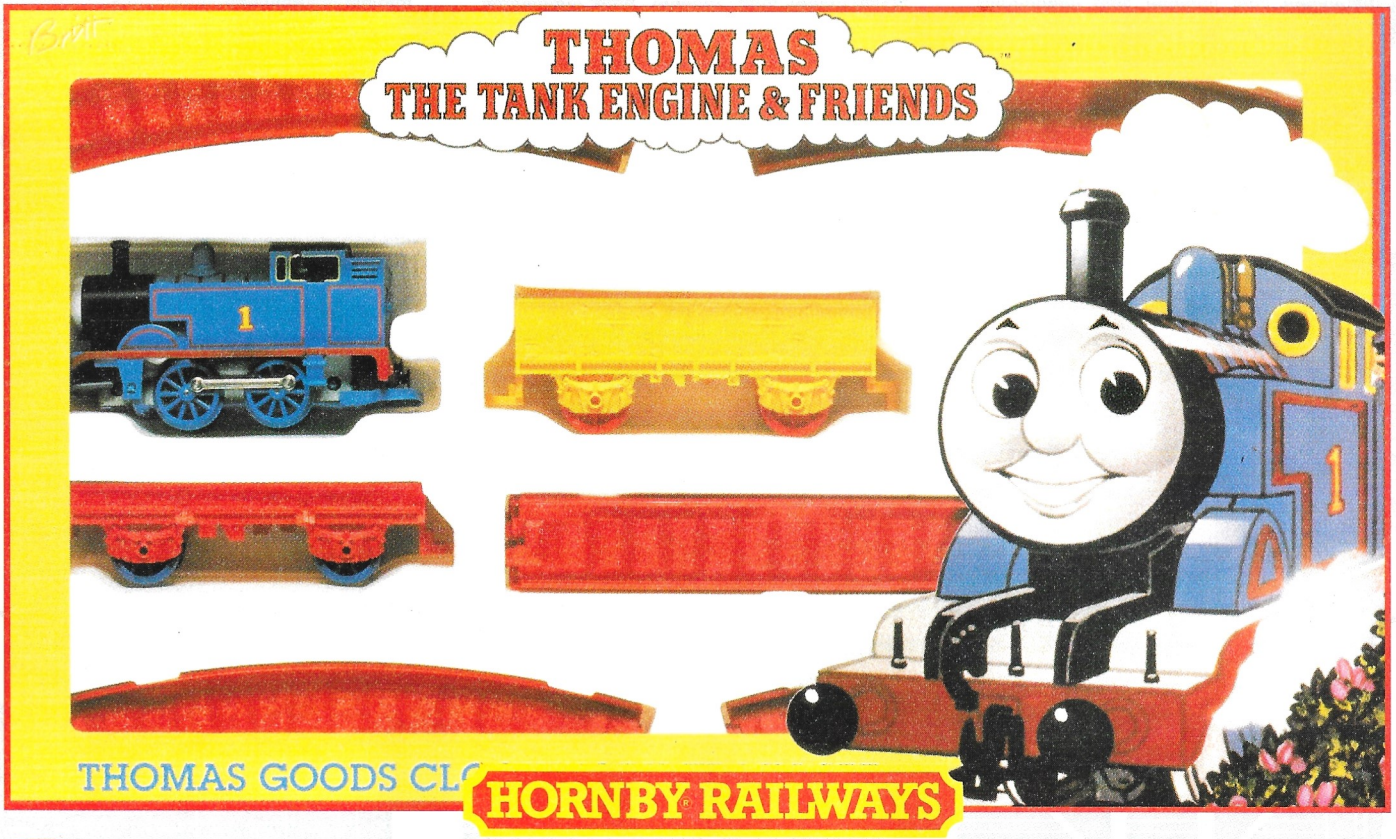
or_ _ _ _ _ _ _



tting in the park?
e little island?
iling on the sea?

This centrespread should be cut out as it forms part of a continuous scene for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom.

WIN a Hornby Thomas the Tank Engine Clockwork Playtrain Set!



Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd. 1995.

There will be 20 lucky prize winners in our great playtrain set competition! Each train set is made up of a clockwork Thomas and two wagons which easily move around the 16 piece track. These fantastic sets are easy to piece together and will give you hours of fun!

For your chance to be one of our lucky winners, all you have to do is answer the simple question below:

What are the colours of the wagons in our playtrain set?

Send your answers on a postcard to: *Thomas/Hornby Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.*

The first 20 correct entrants chosen will win a prize!

Britt
BRITT ALLCROFT

All entries must reach us before May 5th, 1995!

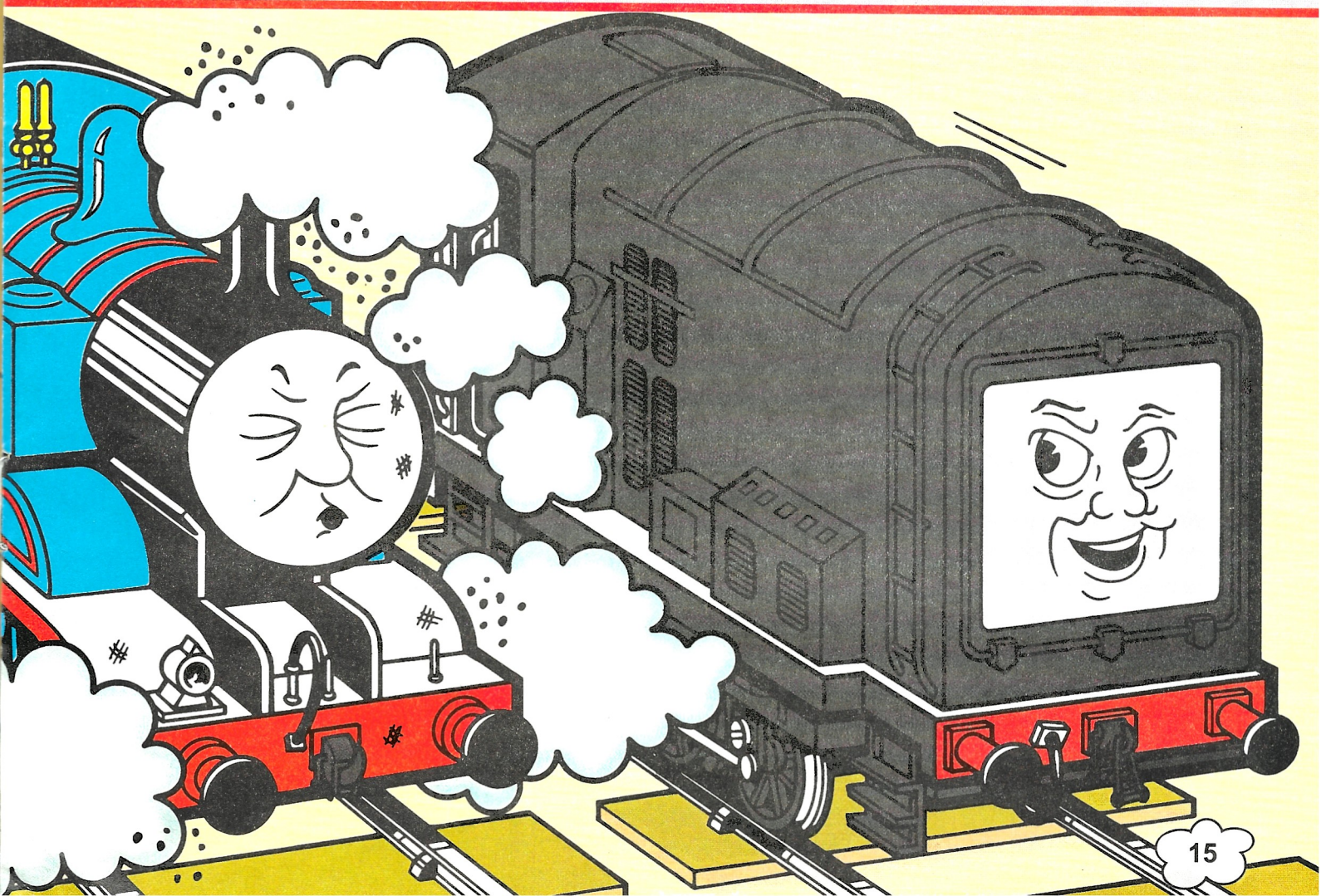
This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd. and Hornby Hobbies Ltd. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

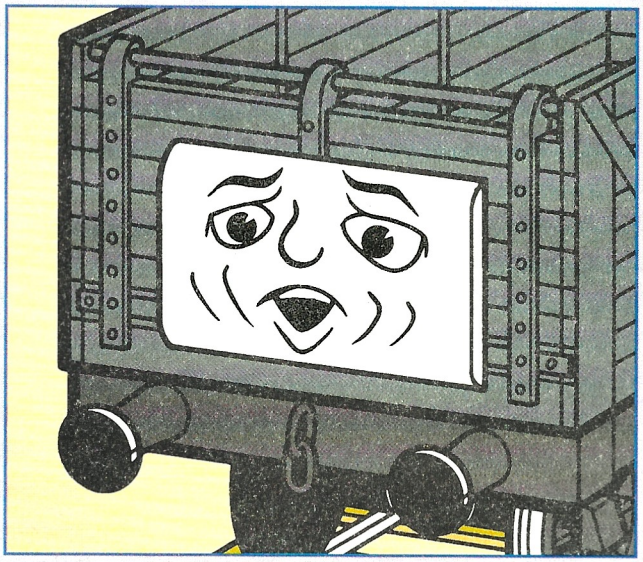
Feeling fine!

Thomas was sent to the Big Harbour yard to help Diesel shunt trucks. But the little tank engine did not feel very well.

"Grooh! I think I'm burning some bad coal in my firebox," said Thomas, coughing and spluttering. However hard he tried, Thomas could not build up much steam. The more he puffed, the more he blew sparks and thick, sooty smoke.

"Pah! Steam engines are so old-fashioned and dirty!" hissed Diesel, in his oily voice. "Your soot's getting in my eyes!" Diesel rushed past Thomas to show off. "Just see how quick and clean I am because I run on modern diesel **oil**!" he





boasted. Thomas felt worse than ever.

Diesel was coupled to some trucks. Then he pulled up beside his pump to be filled with fuel. But Diesel was impatient. He moved off too soon and diesel **oil** gushed out of the pipe. It poured over Diesel's wheels, and on to the track. Diesel tried hard to brake but he skidded on the slippery **oil**.

"Stop! Stop!" cried his trucks. At last, Diesel slid to a halt. His trucks bumped about spilling some sand over Diesel which stuck to the **oil** on him.

"Now who's dirty!" said Thomas. "You've really slipped up this time, Diesel!" Thomas was now able to work more efficiently because his fireman had found some better coal to use. Next day, Thomas was washed and polished before he steamed proudly into the Big Harbour yard. His paintwork sparkled in the sun. Diesel had also been

What do you remember?

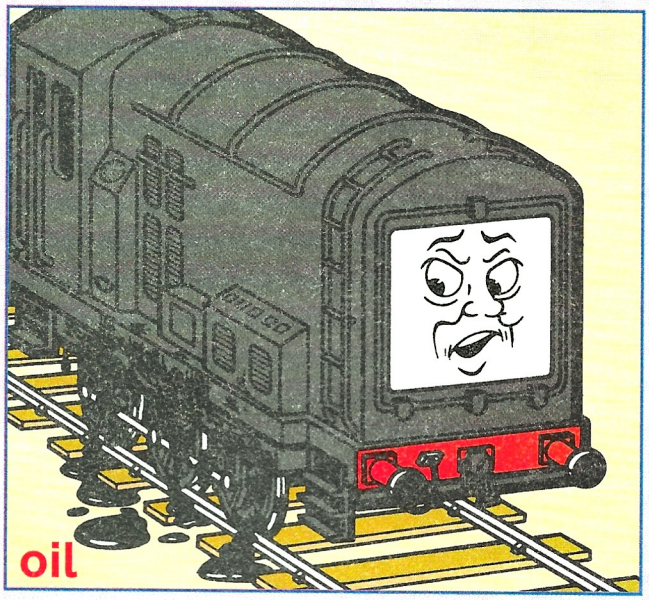
Why did Thomas not feel very well?

What made the oil gush out of Diesel's pipe?

Does Thomas think Diesel should go faster or slower?

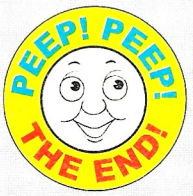
There's more about speedy engines on page 18!

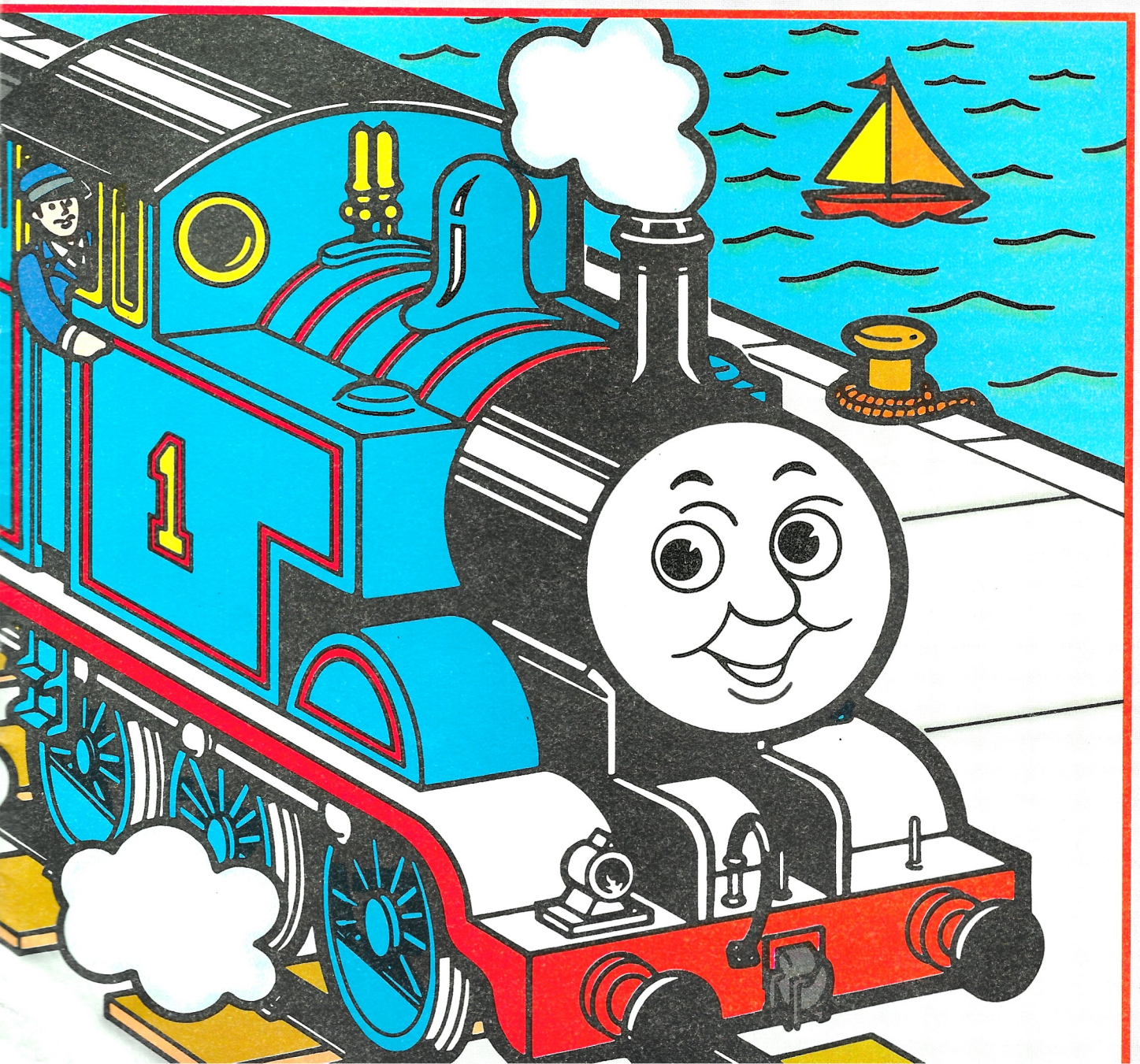
cleaned. But he was still very bad-tempered.



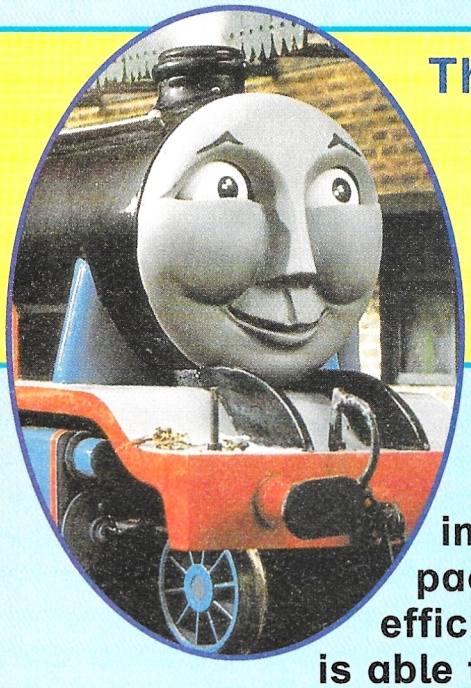
"I feel as if I've been to the seaside! I've still got gritty sand stuck between my wheels!" he growled.

"Then go slowly today, Diesel," smiled Thomas. "Just leave the work to a Really Useful, old-fashioned steam engine like me!"





Who's faster?



The speed at which any job is done is always very important! But, does this mean that faster is always better?

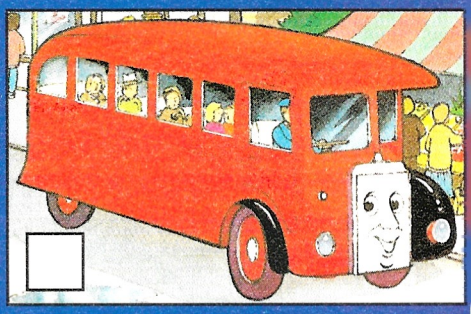
Gordon is an Express Engine! It is his job to deliver important passengers and packages, as quickly and efficiently as possible! Gordon is able to speed along much faster than other engines because he makes less stops along the line! Many other engines have to stop at every station on their journey!

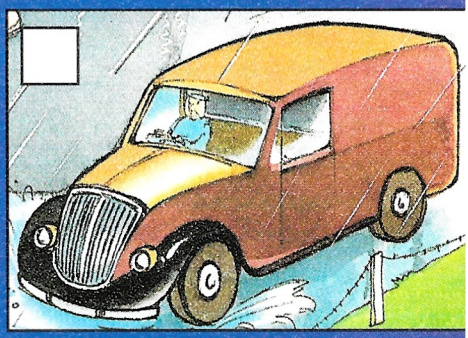
Harold the Helicopter isn't an engine but he flies along very quickly! Harold is so fast that he is able to deliver his goods more quickly than many of his speedy engine friends!

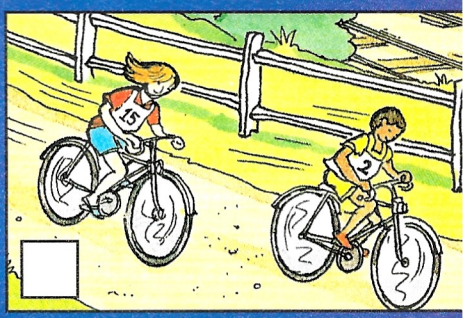
Terence the Tractor is not a very fast moving vehicle! He needs to work slowly and accurately for the Fat Controller! It is Terence's job to plough the fields so that the farmer can plant new seeds. If he worked too quickly, he would begin to plough his fields unevenly!

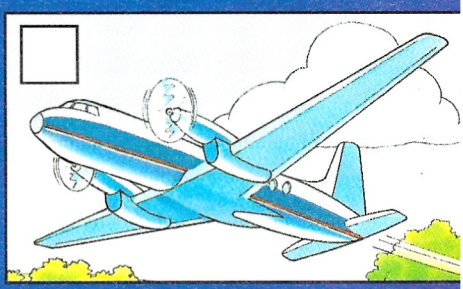
Although going faster means doing something much quicker, you are more likely to make a mistake!

Getting around!







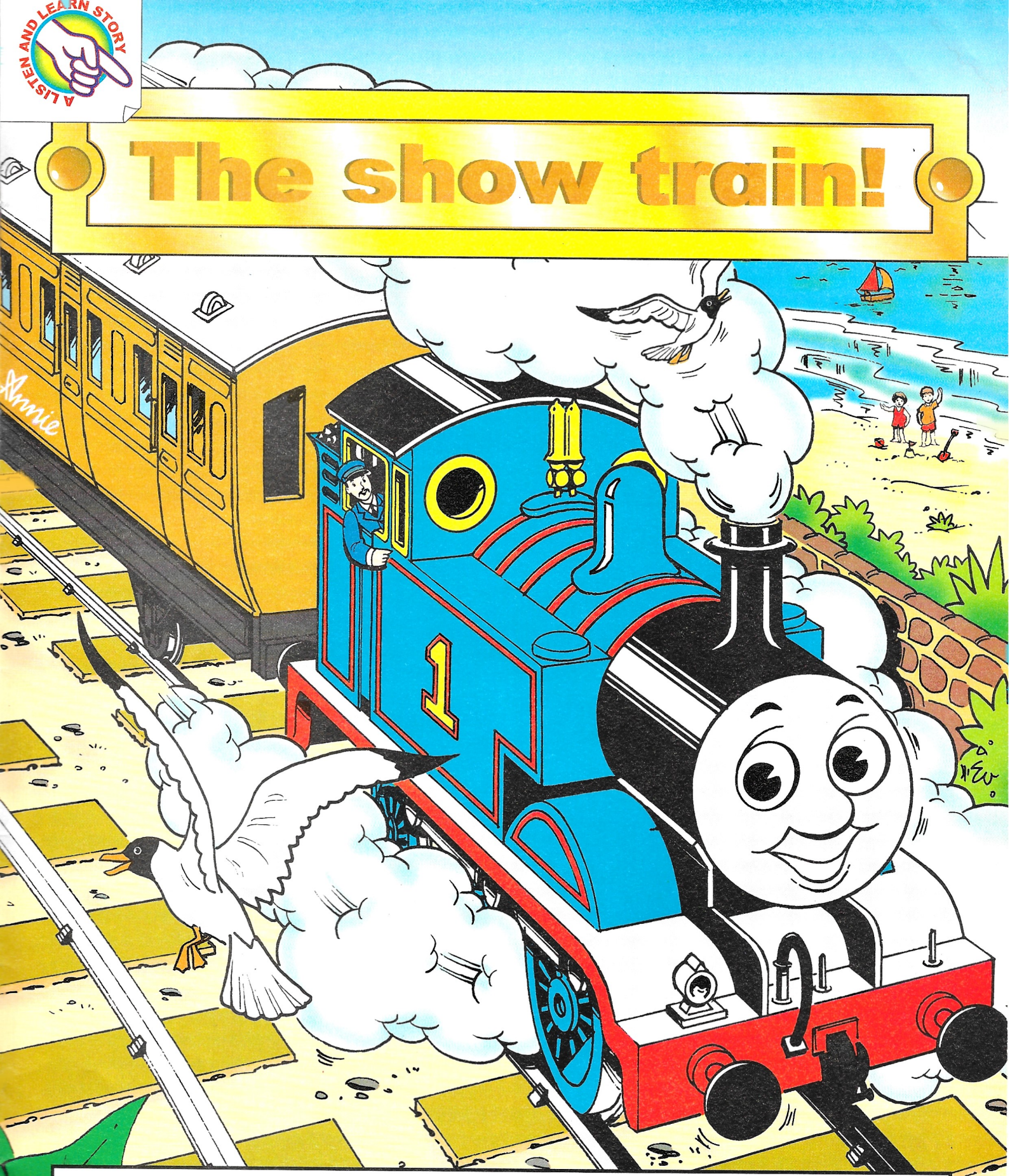


Look at the pictures above! Put a number 1 beside the means of transport which you think is the faster, then as you think they become slower, put a number 2, 3 and then 4 for the slowest! The correct answers are printed below!

Answers: 1 for aeroplane, 2 for car, 3 for bus and 4 for bicycles!

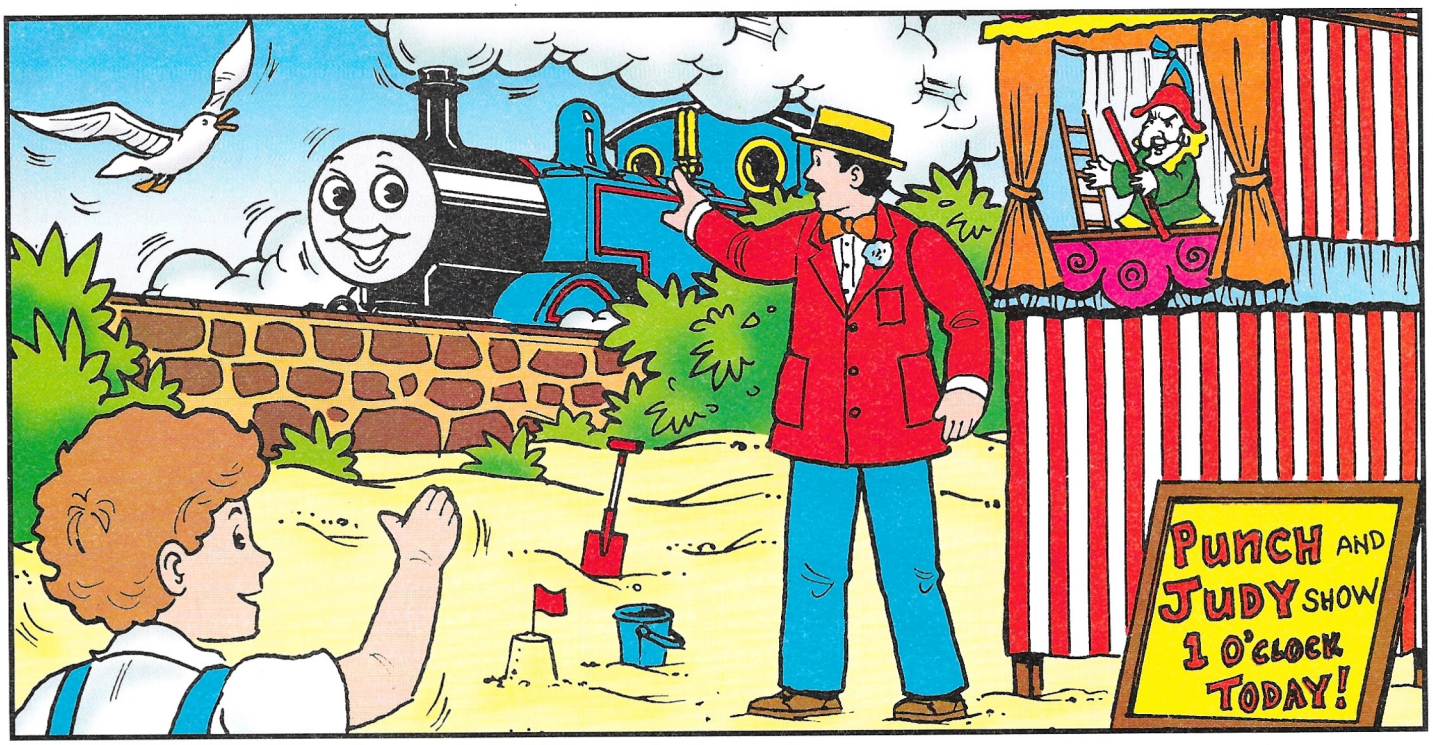
A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

The show train!



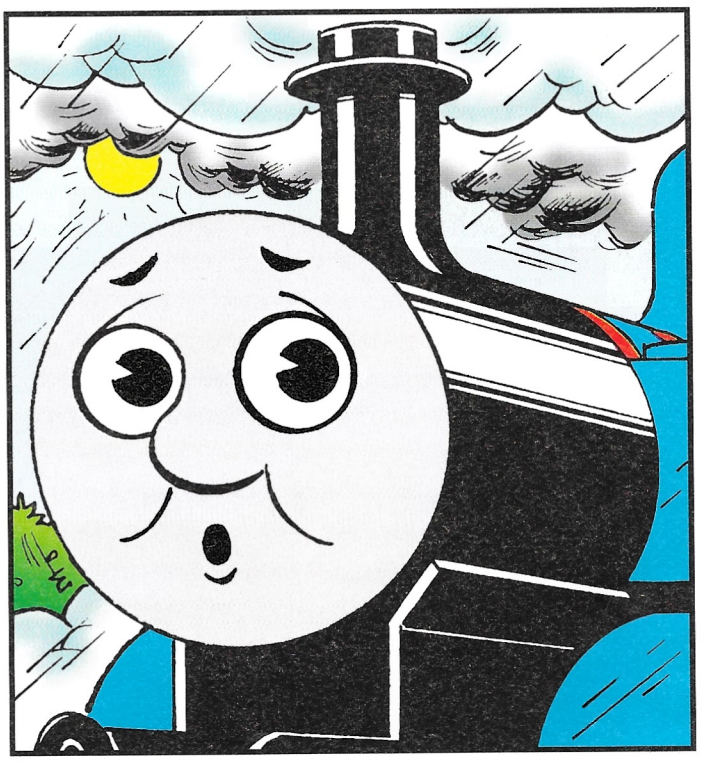
1. Thomas was excited! It was his first run on the seaside line since the winter season. Lady Hatt and the vicar were taking some children on an outing to the beach.

2. It was a lovely sunny morning as Thomas pulled them along in his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel. At the coast, the sun made the blue sea sparkle.



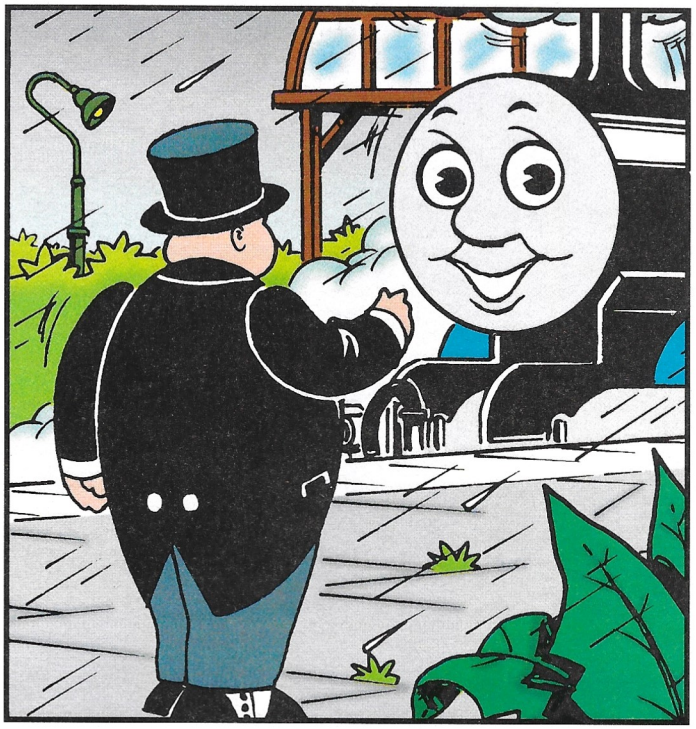
3. Thomas rolled slowly into a station near the beach so all his excited passengers could get off. Then he saw a small striped tent standing beside the pier.

4. Someone waved to Thomas from it. "Look, it's the Punch and Judy man!" called Thomas's driver. "He brings his puppet show to the Island of Sodor each year."

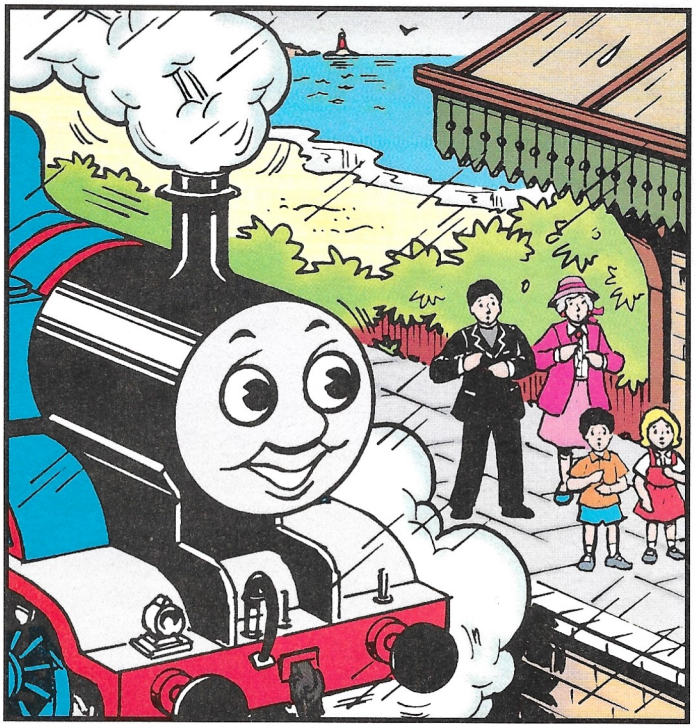


5. "The children love to see Punch and Judy!" smiled Lady Hatt when Thomas's driver told her. "I wish I could see them!" huffed Thomas, as he set off past the pier.

6. On his return journey to the Main Station, the weather suddenly turned cold. The golden sun disappeared behind big, dark clouds and it began to rain heavily.

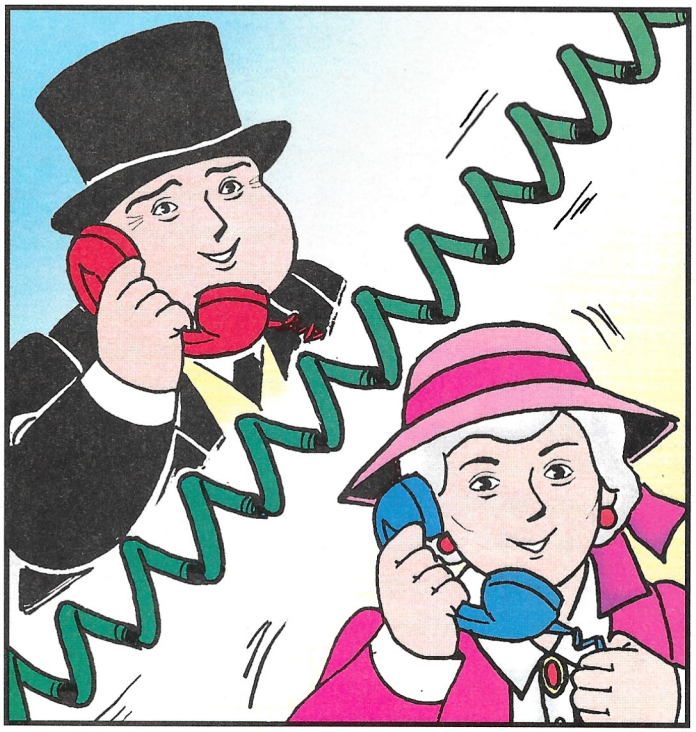


7. The Fat Controller waited for Thomas. "You must hurry and fetch Lady Hatt, the vicar and all the children again before they get soaked by the rain!" he said.



8. Back went Thomas as fast as he could. Raindrops stung his face as he steamed along. Now the beach was empty. Everyone was sheltering beneath the station roof.

9. The Punch and Judy man was there, too. "I do hope the weather gets better soon," he told Thomas. "No one will come to see my show until it does!"



10. Thomas had an idea and spoke to Lady Hatt. She rang the Fat Controller who agreed to let the Punch and Judy man put on his show in Clarabel.

11. How the children enjoyed it. "They saw the show, after all!" said the vicar. "We must make sure other children don't miss it, even if the weather stays bad," replied Lady Hatt. The bad weather continued for many days, so Thomas pulled 'The Punch and Judy Special' all over the Island of Sodor.

12. At every station, children came to watch the travelling show in Clarabel. At last, the sun came out again! Before the man took his show back to the beach, he brought Punch and Judy to thank Thomas for all his help. "You're welcome!" smiled Thomas. "Fancy Punch and Judy coming to see me!"

Show train fun!

The Punch and Judy show was such a success that the Fat Controller decided to allow extra performances inside Annie and Clarabel. He has even drawn up a special timetable for each show! Now look at the Fat Controller's timetable and then draw hands on each clock face to show the time that each performance will begin!

PUNCH AND JUDY TIMETABLE

Morning show	11 o'clock
Afternoon show	3 o'clock
Evening show	6 o'clock

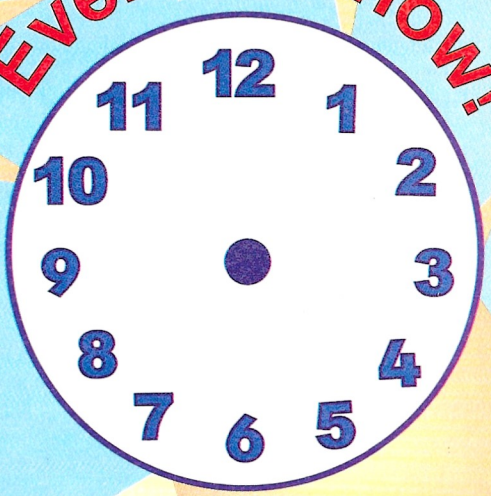
Morning show!

11 O'Clock

Afternoon show!

3 O'Clock

Evening show!



6 O'Clock

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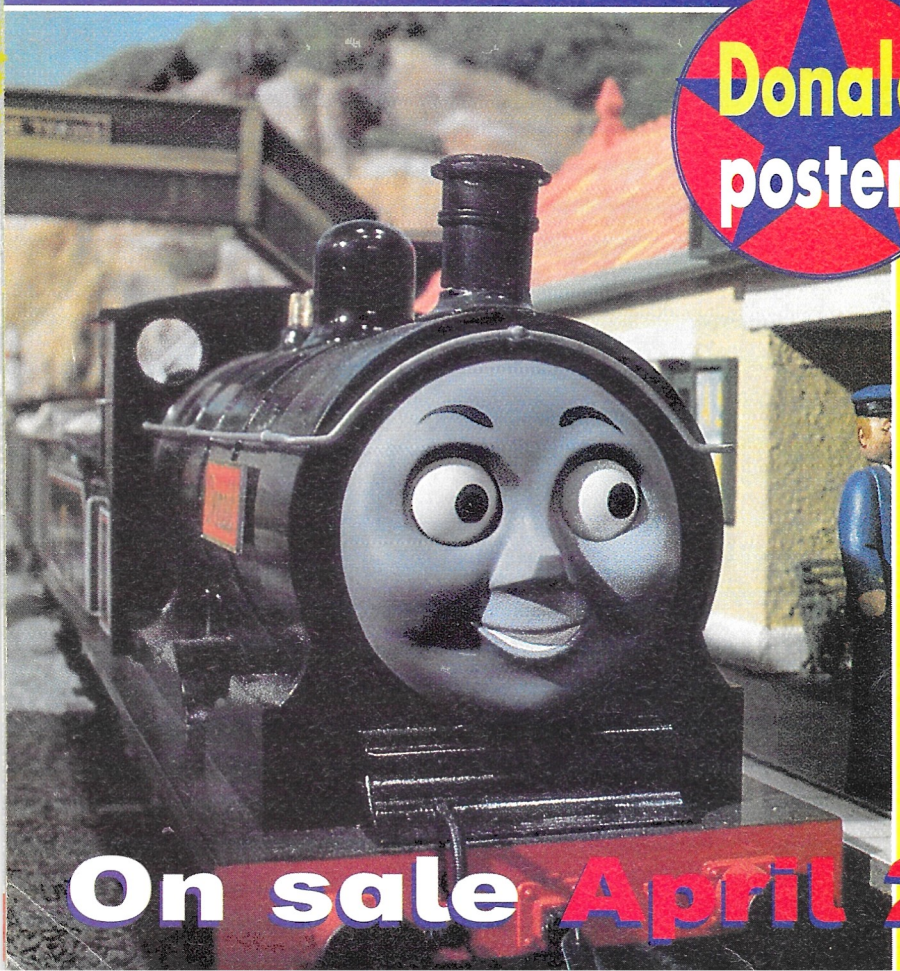

Donald poster!

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